

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

*Easement*

HA-251

19

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Havre de Grace Lighthouse

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Concord and Lafayette Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Havre de Grace

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Maryland

CODE  
24

COUNTY

0770

CODE  
025

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT

☐ BUILDING(S)

☒ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☒ PUBLIC

☐ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☐ OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☒ YES RESTRICTED

☐ YES UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☒ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (If applicable)

Department of Transportation

STREET & NUMBER

Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District, 431 Crawford Street

CITY, TOWN

Portsmouth

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Virginia

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Belair, Maryland

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

NA-251

## CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Havre de Grace lighthouse structure, constructed in 1827, is the only structure remaining from the original complex authorized by the Maryland General Assembly in 1826. The original complex consisted of the lighthouse, keeper's quarters and an outhouse. Presumably, the specifications for the lighthouse structure were developed by staff personnel of the Treasury Department.

The lighthouse is a conical structure of stone painted white, 26 feet high, situated on a plot of land 7' above mean low water. The focal plane of the light was 32 feet above the base. A cupola constructed of metal with rectangular glass panes surmounts the stone tower. Access to the cupola is gained by means of a circular granite stairway which occupies the entire core of the structure.

The lighthouse originally had nine lamps with 16 inch reflectors. The last equipment used in this tower was a fifth-order classical lens with a fixed green light.

NA-251

# **[D] SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1827      BUILDER-ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Havre de Grace Lighthouse was built in 1827 by Mr. John Donohoo who was responsible for many of the early lighthouses on the Chesapeake Bay. The lighthouse was built at the junction of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River in Harford County, Maryland. The General Assembly of Maryland in 1826 authorized the construction of this lighthouse because of the numerous vessels lost in this area.

Although the official name given to the lighthouse has always been Havre de Grace, the local citizenry still refer to this lighthouse as the Concord Lighthouse. The name apparently dates back to the seventeenth century when this area was known as Point Concord. Augustine Herman on his map of 1670, designates the point at the mouth of the Susquehanna River as Point Conquest and from this name Point Concord has been derived.

Havre de Grace Lighthouse was attended by Mr. John O'Neill, an Irishman, who was given this job by the city in recognition of his heroism in defending Havre de Grace from the British during the War of 1812. The O'Neill descendants attended the light until it was automated in the 1920's. This dedication on the part of the O'Neill's is unrivaled in the history of Chesapeake lighthouses.

The lighthouse was discontinued by the Coast Guard as an active light 17 November 1975.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Robert de Gast, The Lighthouses of the Chesapeake  
The John Hopkins University Press: 1973

C. Milton Wright, Our Harford Heritage  
Library of Congress Card #67-31596: 1967

HA-251

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .01 (484 sqft)

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 8 4 0 6 7 4 0 4 3 7 7 1 2 0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The lighthouse is located at the east end of Lafayette Street. The lighthouse is 218' south 81 3/4° east from the corner formed by the intersection of the north side of Lafayette Street and the west side of Concord Street.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. M. Whittington, Realty Specialist

11/25/75

ORGANIZATION

Fifth Coast Guard District

DATE

804 393-9611, ext. 304

STREET & NUMBER

431 Crawford Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Portsmouth, Virginia 23705

STATE

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ NONE \_\_\_\_\_

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is \_\_\_\_\_ National \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

# New light is better than none at Havre de Grace lighthouse

By Sheridan Lyons  
Harford County Bureau of The Sun

Although navigation charts show it as abandoned, the Concord Point Lighthouse in Havre de Grace shines every night, as it has almost continuously since it was completed in 1827.

Its beam is bright again, thanks to a loan by the Maritime Museum in St. Michaels of an authentic light, which was installed at Point Concord last month.

Vandals took the original lens — probably for the scrap value of its brass — sometime after the lighthouse was decommissioned in 1975. Efforts to recover it failed, said Anna M. Long, a city councilwoman who heads Friends of the Concord Point Lighthouse.

The lens was made of French Fresnel glass, hand cut and ground, with its honeycombed pieces handset at an angle, Mrs. Long said. It measured 2½ feet high and 18 inches in diameter.

"A 40-watt bulb could illuminate it for miles," she said. "That kind of glass is a lost art. We tried to get it back, and we still hope."

The new lens, which the city hopes to keep indefinitely, is smaller and uses a fluorescent light. Its beam now shines more for sentimental than navigational purposes.

The 50-foot-high lighthouse is made of Port Deposit granite, with 27 cantilevered, pie-shaped steps leading to a 7-foot ladder and on up to the light and copper-covered dome. Visitors can climb to the top on Sundays and holidays, and the friends committee has a liberal policy of opening the



THE SUN/RICHARD CHILDRESS  
Concord Point Lighthouse was  
built in Havre de Grace in 1827.

building for groups on request, Mrs. Long said.

The lighthouse was dark during the two years after it was decommissioned and before it was given to the city in 1977 — the only time, apparently, its light was out.

See LIGHTHOUSE, 5D, Col. 5

Baltimore Sun 7-2-84

# At Havre de Grace lighthouse, new light is better than none

**LIGHTHOUSE**, from ID

said Ralph B. Mason, who lives next door and tended it as a volunteer for 19 years.

"The federal Lighthouse Service used to come out and paint it," he said. "They asked us to look after it. It wasn't a paid job, but we were happy to do it."

"I was saddened when the Coast Guard decommissioned it, because at the time, it was the oldest lighthouse in continuous service on the East Coast," said Mr. Mason, 60, who has retired from his job as an electrical technician at the Aberdeen Proving Ground.

"But I've navigated out there," he said, "and since the town's grown bigger, it's difficult to tell it from among all the other lights. So in that sense, the blinker buoy [that replaced the lighthouse] is better."

Blinker buoys also are easier to operate, he noted, even though lighthouses long ago changed over from oil to electricity, with automatic devices for their lights.

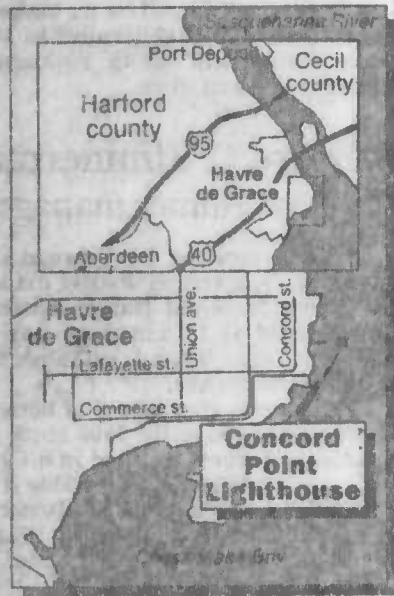
But the Concord Point Lighthouse is there again, too, where the Susquehanna River meets the Chesapeake Bay.

"We keep it illuminated every night," Mrs. Long said, "even though it's shown on the chart as abandoned."

After 1977, she said, the committee used a light bulb in a hollow cone to illuminate the glass cupola, until the loan was arranged.

When Havre de Grace acquired the new light, she said, the lighthouse was "black and green with mold. It really looked bad."

The city had no money for res-



toration, she said, so the committee raised money, selling flowers and photographs of the lighthouse and winning a \$25,000 grant from the Maryland Historical Trust.

The committee has spent about \$40,000, she said, including a fiasco in which members hand-scraped the building and applied authentic-looking whitewash — which "started to peel after about two months and looked terrible."

It has since been repainted.

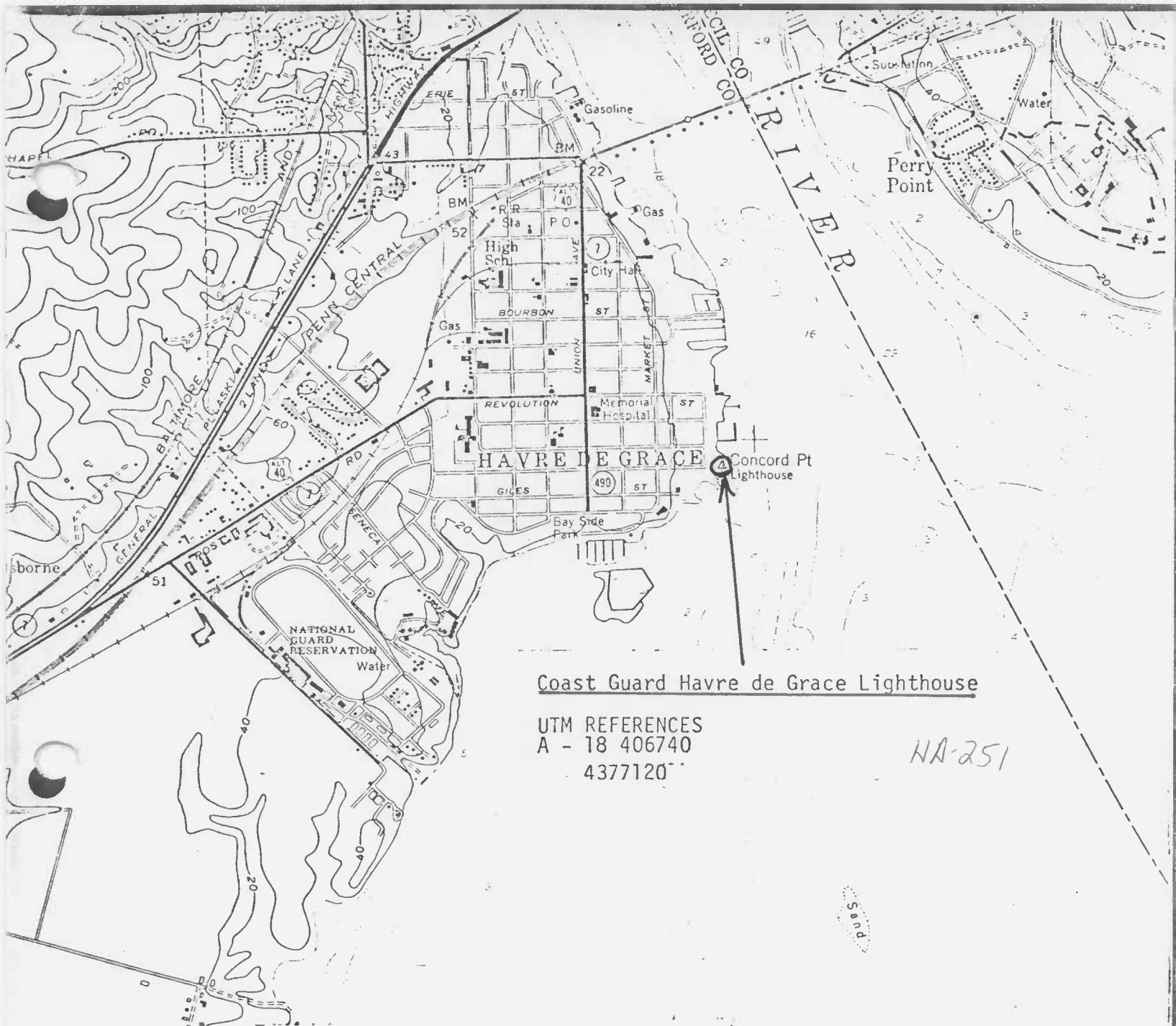
Although the original light was gone, many authentic touches remained, she said. The lock, which takes a big brass key, was reconstructed by hand by a blacksmith.

The group now hopes to raise money for landscaping the property on Concord street and for a floating pier to make the lighthouse accessible from land and water.

Care of the lighthouse once was unique: It was the only one in American history whose keeping was entrusted perpetually to one family, the O'Neills, she said.

That trust dates to the War of 1812, when John O'Neill and his "Potato Brigade" fired three cannons on a British admiral, Sir George Cockburn, who had sailed up the Chesapeake, landed in Cecil county and "looted, burned and pillaged the area."

Baltimore Sun 1-2-84



Coast Guard Havre de Grace Lighthouse

UTM REFERENCES  
A - 18 406740  
4377120

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND SERVICE

**NATIONAL HISTORIC PLACES  
MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

C H E S A P  
Sand

Form 10-300  
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

N. R. FIELD SHEET

MD. HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOX 1704  
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Concord Point Lighthouse
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Havre de Grace Lighthouse

2. LOCATION	
STREET AND NUMBER: Concord Point at the mouth of the Susquehanna River	
CITY OR TOWN: Havre de Grace East end of Lafayette Street.	
STATE: Maryland	COUNTY: HARFORD

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNERS NAME: Commander of the Fifth Coast Guard Division	
STREET AND NUMBER: Federal Building - 431 Crawford Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Parks mouth 23705	STATE: Va

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT	
STREET AND NUMBER: HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE 40 S. MAIN ST.	
CITY OR TOWN: BEL AIR	STATE: MARYLAND

ACREAGE

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY:	
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY



## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	<input type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Stone masonry tower painted white with rotating search light in glass enclosure at top. Tower tapers in ward from about 18' ~~foot~~ to 8' in diameter as it rises about 35'. A door on the west leads to circular staircase; the sill a window in the north face is about 6' above ground, a window in the east face about 20' above ground.

Fully automatic - the light is maintained by the Coast Guard.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐16th Century ☐18th Century ☐20th Century ☐15th Century ☐17th Century ☐19th Century ☐

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1829

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐Education ☐Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☐Historic ☐Industry ☐losophy ☐Agriculture ☐Invention ☐Science ☐Art ☐Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

Communications ☐Literature ☐itarian ☐Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Architecture ☐Music ☐Transportation ☐

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The Coast Guard has been asked to verify the belief that this is the oldest lighthouse in continuous use in America.

The site of a skirmish with the British in 1812. John O'Neil fired <sup>cannon</sup> on their warship, was captured. The town was burned and ravaged, but O'Neil's young daughter plead for his life and he was released by the captain the next morning before the fleet departed.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wright, C. Milton Our Harford Heritage p. 315  
Harford County Directory p 156, 144-6

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: JEAN S. EWING		
ORGANIZATION MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	DATE	
STREET AND NUMBER: 50 STATE CIRCLE		
CITY OR TOWN: ANNAPOLIS	STATE MARYLAND	CODE

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_



HA-251

Concord Point Lighthouse



HA-257

Concord Point Lighthouse





HA-251

Concord Point lighthouse



HA-251

Concord Point Lighthouse



HA-251

Concord Point lighthouse



HA-251

Concord Point lighthouse





HA-251

Concord Point Lighthouse



HA-257

Concord Point Lighthouse



HA-257

Concord Point lighthouse



HA-251

Concord Point Lighthouse





HA 257

SS Mar 70  
357

5 5 3 0

Concord Point

Haure de Grace Light house



HA 231

188 Mar. 70

5 6 3 0

Havre de Grace Light house

Concord Point